

(2.) GOVERNMENT PROSPECTING DRILLS.

The following table gives details of the drilling done and the results obtained for twelve months ended 31st December, 1924 :—

Drill Superintendents : W. H. Warburton, E. A. Wilson, G. Nelson, F. Carter, and H. Butland.

Drills used : Schram-Harker diamond, hand-placer, and Keystone drills.

Number of Holes drilled.	Total Depth, in Feet.	Diameter of Hole.	Mineral sought.	Character of Rocks drilled through.	To whom lent.	Cost per Foot of Drilling.	Cost per Foot of Transport.	Cost per Foot of Carbon's wear.	Results.
		Inches.				s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	
1	1,156	2½	Coal	Mudstone, shales, sandstone, and grits	J. Taylor ..	3 9	0 3½	1 10	6 ft. coal at 1,149 ft.
1	307	2½	..	Ditto	Grey Valley Col- leries (Limited)	5 9	1 4	1 11½	11 ft. 6 in. coal at 293 ft.
1	564	2½	..		State Coal-mines	..	..	..	Completion of work postponed temporarily.
2	1,356	1½	..	Tuff, andesites, and quartz	Waihi Grand Junction Gold Company (Ltd.)	..	..	..	Testing character of country; inconclusive.
16	752	6	Gold	Gravels ..	Clutha Develop- ment (Limited)	..	..	..	Fair; unfinished.
5	661	6 & 5	..		Mahakipawa Gold Company (Limited)	33 11½	3 10½	..	Good.
6	477	6	..		Rimu Gold Dredg- ing Company (Limited)	..	..	..	Poor; unfinished.
17	295	3½	..		Clutha Develop- ment (Limited)	..	..	..	Fair; unfinished.
3	380	6	..	Gravels, &c. ..	Hokitika Pro- specting Asso- ciation	13 0	2 2	..	Traces of gold got.

(3.) SUBSIDIZED ROADS ON GOLDFIELDS.

The expenditure in the form of subsidies and direct grants upon roads on goldfields amounted to £4,126, as compared with £2,867 during the previous year.

(4.) GOVERNMENT WATER-RACES.

The Waimea-Kumara and Mount Ida water-races, constructed by the Government for the purpose of assisting alluvial gold-mining in the districts of Kumara (Westland) and Naseby (Central Otago), showed a loss for the year ended 31st March, 1925, of £200 14s. 4d. Water was supplied to claims employing in all an average of 16.33 persons, and gold to the value of £3,544 2s. 6d. was obtained. On the 1st September the Mount Ida Water-race was taken over by the Public Works Department, with the intention that water not being used in gold-mining be utilized for irrigation.

The following is a statement showing the cash received by the Government for water sold, and the expenditure on the upkeep of the races, together with the average number of miners supplied with water, and the approximate quantity and value of gold received for the year ended 31st March, 1925 :—

	Receipts. (Sales of Water.)		Expenditure.		Debit Balance.		Average Number of Miners supplied with Water.	Approximate Quantity and Value of Gold obtained.		
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.		Oz.	£	s. d.
Waimea-Kumara Water-races ..	1,230	7 3*	1,318	19 5	88	12 2	10.33	747	2,931	19 6
Mount Ida	204	12 6	316	14 8	112	2 2	6.00	159	612	3 0
Totals	1,434	19 9	1,635	14 1	200	14 4	16.33	906	3,544	2 6

* Including royalty on timber.

The amount outstanding on the Waimea-Kumara water-races on the 31st March, 1925, was £845 5s. 7d., an increase of £122 12s. 5d. on the previous year.

(5.) SCHOOLS OF MINES.

In addition to the schools already established at Coromandel, Thames, Waihi, Huntly, Reefton, Westport, and Dunedin, two other schools, with part-time directors, were started at Kaitangata and Nightcaps, with subsidies from the Department. These two schools were instituted to provide tuition in mining and allied subjects, the need for which was being keenly felt by mining students in these districts.

A great deal of useful and necessary work continues to be performed by the Schools of Mines, but in those districts where mining has seriously declined and been replaced by other industries few of the students taking the classes are engaged or likely to be engaged in mining.

The expenditure on schools of mines for the year ended the 31st March, 1925, was £3,501 11s. 3d., against £3,172 10s. 4d. during the previous year. This included a grant of £750 to the University of Otago for the Otago School of Mines.

I desire to acknowledge the efficient help and co-operation which I have received from the Inspectors during the past year.

I have, &c.,

J. A. C. BAYNE,

Inspecting Engineer of Mines.